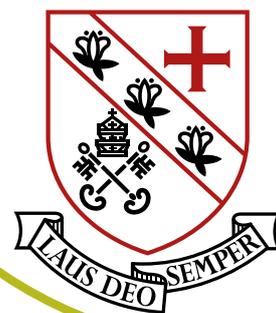


St. Joseph's Newsletter



SEASON'S GREETINGS



On behalf of everyone here in St Joseph's I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

In the season of Advent as we approach the end of another busy and successful term at St Joseph's, I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, governors and parents for supporting the work of the College over the last few months.

This has been a long term filled with trips, sports events and enrichment activities. Recent highlights included our Christmas concert, Christmas services, the literature festival, the fantastic response from parents and students to our charity appeals and our new style activity day. I am extremely proud of all those involved in these and all the other day-to-day events that make the College so special.

Recently in the cathedral, Bishop Declan launched the Year of Mission for the Clifton Diocese.



He asked us to consider what 'face' we are giving as a diocese, as parishes and as schools to the wider world. Hopefully, he commented, we are revealing the face of Christ for we are called to be the face of Christ. It is Christ who is the loving face of God and so our world should encounter the presence of God in us, he said.

Reflecting on this as we approach Christmas, surrounded by the advertising urging us to spend our way to

happiness, I do hope that as a school community we can present a face to the world, which reflects the message put forward last Christmas by Pope Francis. "If we want to celebrate Christmas authentically, we need to contemplate this sign: the fragile simplicity of a small newborn the meekness of where he lies, the tender affection of the swaddling clothes."

Paul Hughes, Principal





COLLEGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 13 DEC** Christmas Service
- 15 DEC** Last day of Term
- 2 JAN** School Reopens
- 25 JAN** Year 11 Kintbury Retreat
- 2 FEB** Year 9 Option Choices Deadline
- 29 MAR** Easter Services

Change of Address or Telephone Number

If you move house or update your telephone number, please can you ensure you notify the College as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Lockers!

A reminder to all parents and students that student lockers need to be emptied at the end of each term, including before half term holidays.



EXAMINATION CERTIFICATES

Leavers examination certificates have been available for collection from our reception since 29th November.

These are legal documents which must be signed for and therefore will NOT be posted.

If the candidate wishes to delegate the collection of their certificates to another person, this person MUST bring with them a letter from the candidate authorising this arrangement. Without written delegated authorisation, the certificates will not be issued.

Please thoroughly check all details displayed on your certificates very carefully.

If any errors are found, please return the certificate with a note explaining the problem to the exams office before Christmas.

After this date candidates who need amendments made to their certificates will need to contact the examination board and pay any applicable amendment fees themselves.

Cashless System

The College has moved to a cashless system for lunches (and breakfasts and breaks) this year and there is a cash converter machine to move cash on to lunch cards. Lunch cards are the only method of payment accepted at the tills.



Parents and carers are reminded that the best way to ensure that your child's lunch card is in credit is to use the ParentPay website to top up the cards:
www.parentpay.com

COOKING COMPETITION

Students of all years were invited to take part in a cooking competition. They were to prepare, make and present a balanced main course in an hour.

The following students made the final:

Jenilza Rosario
Bradley Gomes
Naomi Allko
Lily May Hawkins
Elizabeth Hannigan



All worked incredibly hard and showed wonderful skills.

However, there could only be one winner:

Bradley Gomes with his filleted sea bass, beetroot and tomato side and pureed sweet potato.

French Residential

In October, the Modern Languages department took 25 GCSE students on a trip to the Côte d'Opale in northern France.



The students threw themselves into the French way of life, participating in croissant making, snail and chocolate tasting (not together), French lessons and quizzes and (most enthusiastically) karaoke.



It was a great trip and our students were complimented, not only on their impeccable behaviour, but also on their spoken French.

À l'année prochaine.



'Back the Bid'

New Swindon Museum and Art Gallery

Once unfairly labelled a 'cultural black hole', Swindon is finally on the brink of having a museum and art gallery befitting of its outstanding art collection.

The prospect of having an engaging, stimulating venue on our doorstep is particularly exciting due to the opportunities it would present our students as well as the benefits to the whole community.

If you would like to back the bid, please visit:

swindonmuseum.org.uk

Or follow them on social media.

Facebook

@backthebidswindon

Twitter

@backthebidswin

Thank you
for your support!

Swindon Schools' Tournament

Year 7 Netball



Congratulations to the Year 7 netball team.

They did an amazing job representing St Joseph's and had a brilliant time playing together in their first tournament.

Players: Isabella, Indee-Mae, Aalyia, Maddison, Agata, Tia, Macy, Julietta, Mary-Jane, Amber, Kate and Beth.

Year 8 Netball

Congratulations to Emma B, Jess K, Klara B, Sadie B, Lucia B, Dezaine G and Neve L who represented the college at netball!



The team reached the semi-finals beating Dorcan, Abbey Park and Swindon Academy on the way.

In the semi-final they played Kingsdown, who went on to win the whole tournament.

Well played, ladies!

National Schools' Tournament

Year 9 Netball

After a successful netball tour, the Year 9 netball team were keen to represent St. Joseph's Catholic College in the Swindon Schools' Netball Tournament which took place in October 2017.



A huge congratulations and well done because the girls did manage to make it through to the semi-finals.

The team consisted of the following players:

Teagan, Chantelle, Ashley, Jessica, Olivia, Jessica, Mia, Lorna, Lexi and Julia.

Netball Tour 2017



In April, the PE department took four netball teams on tour to Shropshire.

Every team played their absolute hardest and some impressive netball was played. The whole group was a credit to the college.

A special congratulations to the Year 9 team which consisted of the following players: Lorna, Lexie, Olivia, Aimee, Teagan, Chantelle, Ashley, Jessica, Arianne and Mia.

This team managed to win a plate trophy from the tournament. Their trophy has pride of place on Miss Jones's desk.

SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Many congratulations to Holly Sullivan who represented Great Britain in the Down Syndrome Swimming International Event in Paris recently.



This involved a week participating in a range of heats often against competitors much older than Holly!

She has returned home with a Gold and two Silver medals, all from freestyle team relay events. She also competed in some individual events in which she was often ranked top junior and managed two new personal bests!

Holly will be training with the Great Britain squad in the New Year with her sights firmly set on the next European event in Spain 2019.

We are all very proud of Holly's amazing achievements and we will continue to watch her swimming career progress over the coming months.

Caelan represents GBR at International Judo



Congratulations to Caelan Hammerton who has represented Great Britain at Judo. Caelan travelled to The Hague to compete against nine other countries. In his weight category Caelan finished 11th - well done, Caelan!

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



On Wednesday 8th November the Year 7 and 8 football teams went to Dorcan to represent St Joseph's in the Swindon Town 6 Aside Tournament.

The team did very well in the six games that they played: winning one, drawing three and losing two games.

The PE department were very proud of the team as this was the first time they had played together.

A brilliant effort, Well done!

Players: Bryna, Bryanne, Daniella, Luana, Jessica (Captain), Louise Bena, Ola, Suad, Julietta, Indee-Mae, Aalyia, Maddison, Isabella.

Swindon Schools' Cross Country



MINOR CROSS COUNTRY ENTRIES

Congratulations to Aaliya G, Louise B-B, Isabella S, Macy S, Lydia S and Indee-Mae & Maddison W who ran for St. Joseph's in the Year 7 girls category!

Congratulations to Corey C and Seedorf G who ran for St. Joseph's in the Year 7 boys category!

Indee-Mae, Maddie and Corey go on to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire Schools' round - well done to all!



JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY ENTRIES

Congratulations to Jessica K and Emma B who ran for St. Joseph's in the Year junior girls category.



Congratulations to Francesco G, Saul H, Daniel I and Jonah and Zachary S who ran for St. Joseph's in the junior boys category.

Jessica goes on to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire Schools' round - well done to all!

INTER CROSS COUNTRY ENTRIES

Congratulations to Charlie B, Megan S and Lauren S who ran for St. Joseph's in the Year Inter girls category.

Congratulations to Joseph K who ran for St. Joseph's in the Inter boys category.

Joseph K goes on to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire Schools' round - well done to all!



Inter-school Book Quiz

Monday 6th of November turned out to be an immensely lucky day for six St. Joseph's students.



From Years 7-9, Jason, Shefali, Mary-Kate, Marie, Oscar, and Daniel, travelled to Dorcan Academy in fidgety anticipation of the book quiz that was to be a highlight of the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature. Several rounds of intense rivalry later, consisting of Harry Potter, film and image rounds – among others we clambered up, gradually stepping up the ranks.

A fierce battle between Ridgeway and St Joseph's commenced in the final few rounds, with tensions rising and the atmosphere heavy with nerves and concentration. However, acclaimed author Joffre White calmed the nerves of many and produced much laughter, and the team consoled themselves that they couldn't come second place: they simply had to win!

Finally, after what seemed an eternity, the results were announced: St Joseph's Catholic College had won! Therefore we left, triumphant and victorious... after many photos, laughter and lots of immense fun, that is!

Because at St Joseph's, taking part is important, but winning is essential!

By Shefali Fernandes

Steve Cole Visit

On Thursday 9th November, Steve Cole, author of the Young Bond series of books, visited our school and was warmly welcomed by Years 7, 8 and 9.



First of all, he talked about how he began writing books. When he was young he owned a typewriter.

His inspiration came from the original Bond films, and he thought he could write something similar for young people. He liked making up all kinds of gadgetry for young James Bond, influenced

by classic inventions like the electric car (from 1919).

He's written several books in this Young Bond series. Overall it was such a great experience to meet such a successful author. Steve Cole also made time for book signing in the ILC at the end of his talk.

By Thomas Goldup

Fight! Fight! Fight!

Steve Cole's all-action Year 9 workshop

Last week, Year 9 students from St Joseph's were surprised and excited to hear that well-known author Steve Cole was coming to our school.



Steve Cole was very humorous and taught us how to make an action story interesting. We learned a lot from this visit, such as how writers use action within their stories and how effective the word choices should be. He read to us from his Young Bond story, 'Red Nemesis', and many students were drawn into the book. He also answered questions we asked about being an author.

We then had an interactive 'fight workshop' with him. Two students, Darren and Max, were called up to the front, one was narrating and the other acting out the action scene. It was a good way to end the session and St Joseph's would like to say a big thank you to Steve Cole for visiting us. Personally, I felt this was a fun way to educate students in writing an action scene. We enjoyed Steve Cole's visit to the school and would recommend his books to anyone who enjoys a lot of action!

By Alex Henstridge and Anthony D'Sa

WYVERN THEATRE TRIP

On Tuesday 7th of November, forty nine St. Joseph's Catholic College students visited the Wyvern Theatre to meet Jonathan Stroud.



Jonathan Stroud is the author of the spine-tingling Lockwood and Co. series.

Luca from St. Joseph's, who is in 7C, was invited up by the author himself to dress up like a ghostbuster would. Luca was overjoyed about this.

Overall, I think that the best part was when we bought the books and he signed them.

He wrote:

**'Very best wishes!
Jonathan Stroud.'**

Everyone had an amazing time. Mr Stroud even showed us his very first book and gave us some tips about writing:

1. Get inspiration from the books you have read.
2. Don't give up.
3. Write about what you know.

By Marie Harrington

"What an amazing achievement for St Joseph's. I was very proud to have taken part as leader in (the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature) I actually got very emotional, as the students were so proud and excited about their triumph.

This is now the third time in eight years that St Joseph's have come home with the winning shield. It will be formally awarded to them at the Celebration event on 23rd November at the Platform, by the Lord Mayor. Students and Parents have all been invited. Well done team, I am very proud of you all."



Joffre White My inspiration

Joffre White, a phenomenal author, appeared in my life at an inspiring event at Lawn Manor Academy, on Friday 10th November, through the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature.

Joffre promotes the importance of reading, and travels to schools, libraries, colleges and events around the UK as a Patron of Reading. He delivers motivational speeches and wants to "excite and energise young people's imagination and interest in the power of words".

Joffre first mentioned his quick-paced 'Frog' series, and also introduced us to how he discovered his love/passion for stories. After this, he talked about how books were the key to success in life. Suddenly, I took an unanticipated interest in what Joffre was saying, with sparks going off in my brain that I didn't earlier discover my love for creative writing, and how I had ignored it like Joffre. However, unlike Joffre, the next couple of days I didn't go publishing books, but I have started to write short stories in my spare time.

Even though I am still writing short stories (that in my opinion are probably not even good), that is a huge accomplishment for me. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to take up the opportunity to meet this life-changing author through any events around the UK.

By Milrona Rodrigues